News Item Regarding South Block

7674. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA:
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Indian Express dated 19th May, 1994 under the heading "Dinesh's illness leaves South Block headless"; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto and the measures taken by Government to avoid such a situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI U.L. BHAT1A): (a) Yes, Sir.

(I>) As the contents of the news story are erroneous the question of any reaction by the Government docs not arise. Shri Dinesh Singh was in Delhi and in charge of the day-to-day working of the Ministry.

Diplomatic relations with the Vatican

7675. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) on what consideration Government have recognised the Vatican which is a Church, as State; and

(b) whether Government would consider discontinuing its diplomatic relations with the Vatican?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. DHAT1A): (a) The Vatican is a city State that came into existence in terms of the Lateran Agreement between the Papacy and Republic of Italy on 7 June, 192V. It is the geographical and territorial base of the Holy Sec, which is recognised in international law as possessing sovereignty, exclusive jurisdiction and international legal personality. Based on these considerations, 148 countries including India have accredited Ambassadors to the Vatican which also maintains resident diplomatic Missions in 163 countries.

(b) No, Sir.

Supply of Arms by Pakistan to Militants in Kashmir

7676. DR. NAUHNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Washington Post published a report from Muzaffarbad (Pak) that Islamabad had resumed arms supply and training to Kashmiri Militants after US decided not to label it as a State sponsor of terrorism;

(b) if so, what arc the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that I.S.I, and Pak military continue to train militants and coordinate the shipment of arms from Pak to the Indian side, if so, what is its magnitude;

(d) whether it is a fact that US State Department continue to urge Pakistan to adhere to its slated policy of not supporting Kashmiri militants; and

(c) if so, what concrete steps have been taken by Government and what success has been achieved to contain this continued menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes,»Sir.

(b) The news report states that Pakistan has resumed arming, training and provide logistical support to militants fighting security forces in Kashmir. It goes on to say that After the United States decided not to add Pakistan to the terrorist list, the Pakistan army early this year resumed its active Kashmir operations.

(c) Yes, Sir. The level of Pakistan's support to militants and subversive elements in India has not decreased.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government has taken strong

and effective measures on the ground to counter terrorist activity aided and abetted by Pakistan. Government are also regularly apprising foreign Governments of Pakistan's active involvement in infiltrating men and material for promoting terrorism in Kashmir. The Government is confident that the externally supported terrorist menace in Kashmir has been contained and of success in its efforts to bring about progressive improvement and normalization of the situation.

निर्यातों के संवर्धन हेतु विदेशों में प्रचार

7677. **श्री अजीत जोगी:** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने भारतीय निर्यातकों को वाणिज्यिक सूचना प्रदान करने और विदेशों में भारतीय निर्यात के संवर्धन हेतु विदेशों स्थित भारतीय मिशनों को प्रोत्साहित किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं अथवा उठाये जाने का प्रस्ताव है और अब तक इसके क्या परिणाम निकले हैं; और;

(ग) पिछले तीन वर्षों में वर्ष-वार और मद-वार विदेशों में प्रचार पर कितनी धनराशि व्यय की गयी है?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सलमान खुर्शीद): (क) और (ख) भारतीय निर्यातकों को वाणिज्यिक सूचना देना और भारतीय निर्यात का संवर्धन करना विदेश स्थित हमारे मिशनों का एक प्रमुख काम है। वे व्यवसायियों के बीच परिचय, व्यापार विवादों के समाधान, वाणिज्यिक प्रचार और व्यापार सूचना, वाणिज्यिक तथा आर्थिक स्थिति के बारे में नियमित खबरों, बाजार सर्वेक्षण आदि में भी सहायता करते हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त वे प्रदर्शनियों, मेलों, संगोष्ठियों, क्रेता-विक्रेता की बैठकों, संयुक्त आयोग की बैठकों के आयोजन और दोनों और के व्यवसायी प्रतिनिधिमंडलों को सहायता देने में सहयोग करते हैं।

विदेशों में भारत व्यापार संबंध सुधारने के लिए उपयुक्त नीतियां मिशनों में वाणिज्यिक कार्यकलापों की सावधिक रूप से समीक्षा करके तैयार की जाती है। वाणिज्यिक विषयों का काम देखने वाले कार्मिकों के लिए भारत में विशेष प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम आयोजित किए गए हैं और कई वाणिज्यिक खण्डों में कम्प्यूटर के प्रयोग से दक्षता बढ़ी है।

(ग) प्रत्येक मिशन को समूचे बजट की कतिपय राशि एकीकृत प्रचार खर्च के लिए आबंटित की जाती है। वाणिज्यिक प्रचार के लिए अलग से कोई प्रावधान नहीं है।

Military Cooperation with US

7678. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Prime Minister to the United States, India has accepted in principle the US Suggestion for a military cooperation to build mutual confidence; and

(b) if so, the details of the understanding reached and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) It has been agreed in principle to broaden and increase the pace of the ongoing programme of indo-US military to military cooperation which includes annual exchange of high level visit of military officials, exchange of professional information, participation in military seminars, observation of exercises and Joint exercises.

US Ambassador's Statement on India's Permanent Membership in Security Council

7679. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the US Ambassador-